

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ANKARA 000106

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL
JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Gul Discusses Uzan Family in Jordan - Hurriyet
Peace Formula for the Middle East - Hurriyet
PM Erdogan to Ask Putin's Support For Cyprus - Sabah
Next Summit of Iraq's Neighbors to be Held in Istanbul -
Sabah
Weak Security at Turkish Airports - Milliyet
Uzans Want to Buy A TV Channel - Milliyet
Gul Pleased by Amman Summit - Aksam
Gul: The Middle East Will Feel Our Presence - Turkiye
NATO Commander Gen. James Jones Visits Ozkok - Turkiye

OPINION MAKERS

A Call From Arinc to End Headscarf Ban - Radikal
NATO Commander in Ankara - Cumhuriyet
Arinc Suggests 'New Page' for Headscarf Debate - Zaman
PM Erdogan Calls for More Aid to South Asia - Yeni Safak
Erdogan to Visit South Asia

BRIEFING

FM Gul's Visit to the Middle East: Papers generally describe FM Gul's visit to the Middle East as very productive. Gul said that Turkey will play a more active role for Middle East peace, and asserted that Turkey is trusted by both Israel and the Palestinians. Gul said that 'after the Jan.9 elections, the Palestinian side will end suicide attacks and Israel will stop killing Palestinians.' 'There will be great progress, and we discussed this with both sides,' he added. Gul confirmed reports that Israeli companies have been urged to invest in the 'TRNC.' The Foreign Minister was reportedly pleased with the results of the meeting of foreign ministers from Iraq's neighboring countries. The ministers expressed support for a federative structure in Iraq following the January 30 elections. FM Gul stressed that such a federation could not be based on religion or ethnicity. Iraqi FM Zebari agreed, and described the future Iraq as a 'geographically federated' state. The meeting's concluding documents also reaffirmed the neighbors' commitment to maintaining Iraq's territorial integrity and condemned the killing of civilian workers and drivers in Iraq.

NATO Commander General James Jones Visits Ankara: Papers report that General James Jones, Supreme Allied Commander of NATO, visited Ankara yesterday at the invitation of TGS Chairman General Hilmi Izkok. The two men reportedly discussed NATO activities in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Turks, Iraqis Agree on New Procedures for Turkish Truckers: A report in "Milliyet" claims that Turkish and Iraqi officials agreed on a series of 'radical measures' to improve security for Turkish truckers in Iraq. Such measures include armed protection teams, reconnaissance vehicles in advance of truck convoys, the stationing of Iraqi troops along main truck routes, and variation of the routes used by truckers. Truckers have also been warned not to stray from their convoys, particularly when returning to Turkey from Iraq.

FAA Inspectors Find Gaps in Turkish Entry Procedures: "Milliyet" reports that a group of FAA inspectors made unannounced visits to airports in Istanbul, Ankara, and Diyarbakir in October 2004 and found serious gaps in Turkish security procedures. The inspectors were able to fly from a point outside Turkey to Diyarbakir through Istanbul without passing through any kind of passport control. The same situation pertains to international flights that transit through Ankara. Turkish officials claimed that the entry loophole will be closed on February 2, when a new regulation

will go into effect requiring passport control to be conducted at the first point of entry.

Erdogan to Seek Russian Support for Resolving the Cyprus Issue: "Sabah" reports that during his visit to Russia next week, PM Erdogan will seek Russian President Putin's support to solve the Cyprus issue. Erdogan wants Russia to give a green light to the release of the UN report on Cyprus as a step toward ending embargoes against the Turkish Cypriots.

More Claims of Military Corruption: The lead stories in most Turkish dailies was the testimony of Ali Osman Ozmen, the contractor at the center of corruption charges related to military construction contracts. Although Ozmen denied most of the charges against him, he revealed that he had made a 'loan' of 150,000 USD to General Tuncer Kilinc, then Secretary General of Turkey's National Security Council.

SIPDIS

Ozmen insisted that the payment was not a bribe, but acknowledged that General Kilinc had never repaid the money.

Uzan Family to Buy A New TV Channel: "Milliyet" gives details of a tapped telephone conversation between Cem Uzan and his fugitive brother, Hakan Uzan. This phone conversation makes clear that the Uzans are planning to buy a national TV channel using a foreign investor as a front-man. According to the phone records, "Star" newspaper correspondent Zeynep Gurcanli reportedly approached the US embassy seeking an appointment for Cem Uzan with Ambassador Edelman. The report claims that the Ambassador is 'waiting for a decision from Washington' before meeting with Uzan. (Editor's note: In fact, the Ambassador turned down the request in no uncertain terms. Endf note.) . Meanwhile, "Hurriyet" reports that during his visit to Jordan yesterday, FM Gul discussed the whereabouts of members of the Uzan family who are wanted on criminal charges in Turkey and are believed to be living in Jordan. He reportedly raised the issue during a meeting with Jordanian King Abdullah.

Arinc Steps in to Solve the Headscarf Problem: "Cumhuriyet", "Zaman", "Radikal", and "Yeni Safak" report that during his meeting yesterday with the 'Freedom of Beliefs Platform,' Parliament Speaker Bulent Arinc said that Turkey must solve the headscarf problem. Arinc reportedly urged the government to take measures to end headscarf restrictions in Turkey.

EDITORIAL OPINION:

? The Middle East
? Iraqi Elections

"Turkish Efforts in the Middle East"

Kamuran Ozbir observed in the nationalist "Ortadogu" (1/7): "The new Palestinian administration clearly wants Turkey to act as a mediator in the peace process. Ankara has the potential to play this role effectively because of its relations with both the Islamic world and Israel. Under current circumstances, Turkey seems to want to take an active mediation role rather than a just the facilitative role it played in previous peace efforts. In other words, Turkey wants to be actively involved instead of just being a message-carrier. Yet there are some pitfalls here: Will the US, for example, approve of Turkey's approach? We should also keep an eye on the reaction of the UN, Russia, and the EU. . On the other hand, if the US is sincere in its desire to see a reform process in the Arab world, it must take urgent steps for a new peace process. Such a process should be based on a new approach that includes a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital."

"Iraq and the Elections"

Mensur Akgun wrote in the economic-political "Referans" (1/7): "Iraq is moving closer to the election date, but the potential for ethnic and religious conflict is also growing. Iraq has not yet equipped itself with even the basics of a working state system. Security remains the biggest problem. The occupation regime cannot even protect its own police force, let alone the recently assassinated governor of Baghdad. Despite numerous military operations, terrorist acts continue to spread. January 30 is approaching, but it is still not clear whether the elections will even be held. In any case, an election postponement would serve only the interests of resistance groups and terrorists. Carrying out the elections will help the new Iraqi Government gain some degree of legitimacy, despite the expected low turnout in some areas. There are groups which have already announced their intention to boycott the elections, and the legitimacy question remains a serious one. In the event the elections are postponed, the hand of terrorist groups will be strengthened."

EDELMAN